

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 INT-05 EAE-00 /097 W

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P 240855Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2539

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ASEAN MY RP

SUBJ: MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE TREATY OF AMITY AND
FRIENDSHIP

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 975 (DTG 230858Z FEB 76)

1. SUMMARY. MALAYSIAN REPORTING ON ASEAN SUMMIT TALKS
NOW DEFINITELY UPBEAT AND DEVOID OF ANTI-FILIPINO OVER-
TONES THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED EARLIER COVERAGE OF EVENTS
BY SELF-STYLED GOM PUBLICIST/PROPAGANDIST NOORDIN SOPIEE.
ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, NO MAJOR ROADBLOCKS FORESEEN TO
ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SIGNING THREE MAJOR DOCUMENTS,
INCLUDING TREATY OF AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP. MALAYSIAN
OFFICIAL INDICATES COMPROMISE IN RESOLVING FILIPINO/
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MALAYSIAN DEADLOCK OVER CLARIFICATIONS OF

ARBITRATION CLAUSE IN LATTER DOCUMENT REFLECTS
MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ACCOMMODATION THAT WILL
BENEFIT ASEAN AS WHOLE. END SUMMARY.

2. "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) CONTINUES PROMINENT
PLACEMENT OF REPORTS FROM BALI ON ASEAN SUMMIT
NEGOTIATIONS BY INFLUENTIAL EDITORIAL WRITER
NOORDIN SOPIEE. ACCORDING TO SOPIEE, HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT WILL SIGN THREE DOCUMENTS FEB 24:
"THE TREATY OF AMITY AND CO-OPERATION," THE
"DECLARATION OF ASEAN CONCORD" AND AN AGREEMENT
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT.

3. NST FEB 24 FRONTPAGED REPORT CO-AUTHORED BY
SOPIEE AND DAHARI ALI CITING "BREAKTHROUGHS" AS
OF FEB 23 IN VARIOUS AREAS OF DELIVERATIONS,
INCLUDING STATEMENTS FROM "RELIABLE SOURCES"
TO EFFECT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED ASEAN
DECLARATION WOULD BE CALLED "THE DECLARATION
OF ASEAN CONCORD," WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS A
"NON-SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSION" TO THE PHILIPPINES.
DECLARATION REPORTEDLY WOULD INCLUDE CLAUSE ON
RENUNCIATION OF USE OF FORCE IN INTRA-ASEAN
DISPUTES, WHICH WRITERS TERMED AS "REGARDED BY
SOME AS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS AN ASEAN
NON-AGGRESSION PACT." IT ALSO WOULD SPECIFY
THAT FUTURE SUMMITS WOULD BE CONVENED WHEN A
NEED ARISES RATHER THAN ON A REGULAR BASIS. DRAFT
DECLARATION AGREED TO BY FOREIGN MINISTERS REPORTEDLY
CALLS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ALL DISPUTES AS SOON AS
PRACTICABLE AND NOTES AGREEMENT THAT "CONSTITUTION
AND MACHINERY OF ASEAN WOULD BE RE-EXAMINED TO
STRENGTHEN THEM". FINALLY, DECLARATION SUPPOSEDLY
EXPRESSES A JOINT COMMITMENT TO CO-OPERATION IN
INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION AND CALLS FOR GREATER
JOINT EFFORTS TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING. IT WOULD
NOT, HOWEVER, ENVISAGE ANY DEFENSE OR SECURITY
ARRANGEMENT UNDER ASEAN AEGIS.

4. SAME ARTICLE REPORTED MEETING OF ECONOMIC
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MINISTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR MARCH 8-9 WILL DISCUSS
"THE PROJECT FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTATION (SIC)," AS WELL AS FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION, JOINT COMMODITY
ARRANGEMENTS AND BUFFER STOCK SCHEMES ON SUCH RAW
MATERIALS AS RUBBER, SISAL, ETC.

5. SEPARATE BACKPAGED REPORT BY SOPIEE DATED
BALI FEB 23 DESCRIBED HOW IMPASSE BETWEEN MALAYSIA

AND PHILIPPINES OVER ARBITRATION CLAUSE OF TREATY OF AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP WAS RESOLVED WHEN SINGAPORE INTRODUCED A FORMULA BOTH SIDES FOUND FULLY ACCEPTABLE. SOPIEE COMMENTED THAT "IT IS EASY TO ARGUE FROM THE AIR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HAS INFECTED THE MALAYSIAN CAMP THAT MALAYSIA HAS INNER QUOTE WON END INNER QUOTE," BUT CITED COMMENTS OF UNIDENTIFIED MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL THAT "WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN SCORING POINTS. THIS IS NOT A GAME. WE HAVEN'T WON, ASEAN HAS WON. WE HAVE REACHED AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT ON A BASIS WHICH MAKES EVERYBODY HAPPY."

6. COMMENT: SOPIEE CLEARLY IS BACK-PEDALING AND HIS REPORTS ARE NOW MORE POSITIVE IN TONE AND DEVOID OF ANTI-FILIPINO SLANT THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED EARLIER REPORTING/COMMENTARY. THIS SUGGESTS NOT ONLY THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN TALKS ON SMOOTHING OVER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, BUT THAT PROBABLY SOMEONE ON GOM SIDE HAS GOTTEN WORD TO SOPIEE THATTENOR OF REPORTING NOW SHOULD REFLECT "SWEETNESS AND LIGHT" AND PERVASIVENESS OF "SPIRIT OF ASEAN".
UNDERHILL

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